

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042364

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ORIGIN SS-20

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 /022 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 320

THE FOL TEL TEL FROM THE SITUATION ROOM DATED FEB 2, 1974
TO RYADH INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPTED.

QUOTE UNCLAS WH40622

TO S/S TEAM FOR THE SECRETARY, RIYADH
NEWS DIGEST
MARCH 1, 1974

OTHER FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUN'S WU REPORTS PENN STATE SCHOLARS JUST BACK FROM PRC
GOT IMPRESSION THE "MASS CRITICISM CAMPAIGN" IN PRC "ISN'T
GENERATING ANY ANTI-US OR ANTI-FOREIGN FEELINGS." PENN STATE
PREXY SAID GROUP "COULDN'T HAVE BEEN TREATED MORE GRACIOUSLY,
"AND NOTED WESTERN DIPLOMATS WERE "SURPRISED" GROUP HAD BEEN
ALLOWED TO VISIT SHANGHAI AND OTHER CITIES TO WHICH TRAVEL
"BY FOREIGN RESIDENTS REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN RESTRICTED" SINCE
CAMPAIGN STARTED. DIPLOMATS WERE ALSO "SURPRISED" TO FIND

PAGE 2 RUEADWW 1100 UNCLAS
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PAGE 02 STATE 042364

OUT SCHOLARS GOT "FRIENDLY RECEPTION" IN FACTORIES AND SCHOOLS

"WHERE CRITICISM POSTERS FILL ALL THE WALLS."

NOTING IF "RN IS TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF REDEMPTION HE MUST BE ABLE TO CLAIM GREATNESS" IN FOREIGN POLICY, CONINE OF LA TIMES ADDS, "UNFORTUNATELY, FOR BOTH RN AND US, THIS IDYLIC PICTURE OF US-USSR RELATIONS IS THREATENING TO COME UNRAVELED." BUT NEITHER RN NOR HAK CAN AFFORD TO ADMIT THEY "MAY HAVE BEEN HAD." NOTING RN'S PLANNING TO GO TO MOSCOW, CONINE SAYS, "EVEN MOST STUPID KREMLIN POL IS AWARE RN'S IN NO POSITION TO GO HOME EMPTY-HANDED." THEREFORE, RN, IN HIS "PRECARIOUS POSITION HAS NO BUSINESS" VISITING USSR, BECAUSE "HIS VULNERABILITY TO SOVIET MANIPULATION IS SIMPLY TOO GREAT." AND THERE ARE NO HINTS HAK'S TRYING TO PERSUADE RN NOT TO GO. HAK'S "DANGER" IS HE MAY BECOME "CAPTIVE OF HIS OWN SUCCESS," LIKE RN'S "CAPTIVE OF FAILURE AND INSECURITY. LIKE UCLA TEAM THAT WON 88 IN A ROW, HAK CAN'T SUSTAIN A SETBACK W/OUT PEOPLE CLUCK-CLUCKING THAT HE'S ON LOSING STREAK, THAT HE'S NOT ONE OF HISTORY'S GREATEST DIPLOMATS, AFTER ALL, " AND HE'S "NO MORE ANXIOUS THAN RN" TO ADMIT DETENTE MAY BE A "SHAM...IN SHORT, RN'S DOWN AND HAK'S UP,

PAGE 3 RUEADWW 1100 UNCLAS

BUT THEY SHARE A COMMON INTEREST IN MAKING BELIEVE THE WORLD IS A ROSIER PLACE THAN IT REALLY IS, "WHICH IS "GOOD NEWS" FOR KREMLIN BUT "OF WORRISOME CONSEQUENCE" TO US PUBLIC, SAYS CONINE.

MONITOR'S STRINGER NOTES "NATL SECURITY" ARGUMENT "CAN BE OVER INVOKED, "BUT WE SHOULD REMEMBER "GRAVE ISSUES AND BREAKTHRU IN FOREIGN POLICY HAVE BEEN UNDER (SOMETIMES SECRET) NEGOTIATION." WHATEVER ONE'S OPINION OF PENT PAPERS, "SCARE PRODUCED BY LEAKAGE IN RN-HAK CIRCLE WAS REAL AND SIZABLE, "HE SAYS. AND THO WE "MAY THINK IT FOOLISH TO HAVE FEARED, AS HAK REPORTEDLY DID, THAT ELLSBERG MIGHT BE SOME KIND OF SOVIET AGENT...POINT IS, OFFICIALS OF HIGH STANDING HAD WORRIES IN THIS DIRECTION...AND YOU DON'T FOOL AROUND IF YOU THINK NATL SECURITY IS BEING COMPROMISED...IF, AT THE VERY TIME, CRITICAL ISSUES ARE UNDER NEGOTIATION, "AS WAS HAK'S SECRET TRIP TO PRC. SUPPOSE PENT. PAPERS TOLD OF US SPY SATELLITE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 042364

CAPABLE OF "PICKING UP CONVERSATIONS BY SOVIET LEADERS FROM THEIR MOVING LIMOS," SAYS SPRINGER. "WOULD IT BE A GOOD IDEA FOR A NEWSMAN, OR OFFICIAL TO MAKE THIS INFO READILY AVAILABLE

PAGE 4 RUEADWW 1100 UNCLAS

TO MOSCOW EVEN THO SOVIETS MIGHT SUSPECT SUCH ESPIONAGE WAS

GOING ON."WHAT IF LEAKS DISCLOSED SALT FALL-BACK POSITION?

"IN SHORT, WOULD LEAKS HERE AND THERE NOT BE TROUBLESOME AND EVEN INFURIATING TO HAK W/HIS SECRET MEHTOD OF NEGOTIATING? AND WOULD IT NOT BE EQUALLY ANNOYING TO RN, BANKING HEAVILY ON HAK'S DIPLOMACY? WOULDN'T RN BE MOVED TO INVOKE NATL SECURITY "AND WOULDN'T SUBORDINATES, "KNOWING HIS CONCER, BE MOVED TO GO SO FAR" AS ELLSBERG BURGLARY? "AND WOULDN'T THERE BE A TEMPTATION TO SET UP A "PLUMBERS" OPERATION?" SPRINGER CONCLUDES, "A LOT OF QUIET NEGOTIATION HAS BEEN UNDER WAY, W/RUSS,CHINESE AND N. VIETS, AND A LOT OF EFFECTIVE STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKE, AND LEAKS AND INTERFERENCE BY THOSE WHO DON'T SHOULDER THE GRAVE RESPONSIBILITIES DON'T HELP AT ALL."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC 320, STUDENT GROUPS, VISITS, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE042364
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: K. KURZE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740372/aaaacoyi.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CH, US
To: AMMAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005